

ON *Marines* LIBERTY

Marine Advances in TV Contest



American Idol

▲ Lance Cpl. Josh Gracin performs on the set of "American Idol" Feb. 25. Photo by Ray Mickshaw, Fox Photographer

First he earned the title of Marine and now Lance Cpl. Josh Gracin is attempting to earn the coveted title of "American Idol". Gracin moved one step closer to his goal Feb. 26 when America voted him into the final 12.

"I felt confident with my performance but when my name was called the reality set in that this is actually happening," said Gracin. "The first thing that went through my

mind was excitement and then relief."

Gracin, who was positioned in the fourth group of eight to perform, had to watch the performers and judges for three weeks before he could show his skills.

"I don't know if it was to my advantage to be the last group to sing but it was eye-opening to hear the comments from the judges," said Gracin. "There comes a point where you have to ignore everything around you and simply sing

By Staff Sgt. Chad McMeen, HOLLYWOOD

your heart out. You have to make sure and not over analyze yourself."

Four wild card performers will now advance to the finals. The finalists will move into a house this week where they will remain in seclusion until voted out of the competition.

"Living in the house will definitely change the dynamics of the game," explained Gracin. "I'll be able to see the strengths and weaknesses of the other singers and build

on them or at least make sure that I don't make the same mistakes."

The singers will now compete against each other weekly and the one with the least amount of votes will be eliminated from the competition.

"Now that I'm in the final 12, the bar has definitely been raised as far as the competition goes," said Gracin. "I think the competition will be more fierce and you're going to see better performances out of some of the contestants."

The top 12 finalists will compete weekly during live themed episodes with America's votes announced the following evening, according to Fox Television. When only two finalists remain, they will perform in a nationally-known venue and vie for a major recording contract. The voting audience at home will then decide who will be the next "American Idol." Contestants will still be able to

pick their own songs based on that week's theme.

"A great singer should be able to show the audience his talent through any style of music," said Gracin with a grin. "I'd like to see one of the themes be Country & Western because that is exactly my style. I'm going to be forced to sing R&B and Pop and it only seems fair to see if the other singers can adjust like I have each week."

In addition to the pressures of performing, "American Idol" and Fox are now inundating the finalists with television, radio and magazine interviews around the nation.

"I am much more comfortable singing in front of the camera as opposed to doing a live camera interview," said Gracin. "Every word I say is evaluated by 175,000 Marines and former Marines. Anything I say could very well be perceived as official Marine Corps policy."

While other contestants are asked general questions about the competition or their personal feelings, Gracin is often asked to comment on issues such as military deployment, the role of Marines in the war on terror, and to speculate on endless "what if" questions.

"I have to constantly police myself because the last thing I want to do is decrease my chances of continuing in this contest because of something I say or do that does not represent the overall Marine Corps well," explained Gracin about his greater responsibility. **M**

From the Big Screen to Your Screen

Windtalkers DVD Debuts in May

By Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher, HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

It was good in theater, it's even better in home. Windtalkers, the action-packed war drama in theaters last summer, is set to be released as a three-disc Director's Edition DVD May 20 from MGM Home Entertainment.

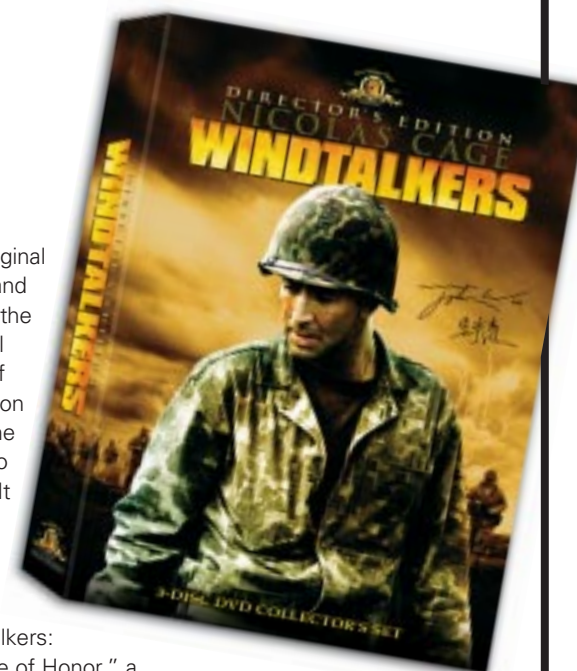
Starring Nicholas Cage and Christian Slater, this was the first feature film about the Navajo Indians who were recruited to develop their language into a code for the Marine Corps. In the story, Marines Joe Ender (Cage) and Ox Anderson (Slater) are assigned to protect code talkers Ben Yahzee (Adam Beach) and Charlie Whitehorse (Roger Willie). However, if the code talkers should fall into enemy hands, they are to "protect the code at all costs." Ultimately, each man must struggle with the decision, how far will he go to protect the code?

While the plot makes for a great story, it's never been proven that Marines were ordered to kill their codetalker counterparts to prevent the Japanese from learning the code. However, the film was incredibly accurate in its portrayal of the attack on Saipan—one of World War II's deadliest and most brutal campaigns.

In theater, it had it all—in your face action scenes, as well as, on the edge of your seat intense drama. The DVD promises to be even better in Woo's new cut, which offers 20 minutes of additional never-before-seen footage, including extended battle scenes. The DVD has more than 12 hours of entertainment. Special features include an inside look into the making of the film, audio commentaries with Woo, Cage and Slater, new interviews with cast, crew and

four of the original code talkers and footage from the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor reception recognizing the original Navajo code talkers. It includes an "Actor's Boot Camp" featurette and "The Code Talkers: A Secret Code of Honor," a historically documentary.

If you have already bought the standard version of the DVD, don't despair. MGM Home Entertainment will support the release of the Director's Edition with a mail-in upgrade offer for those who already own the standard version. So, if you saw the movie but wanted to know more, this DVD set is definitely for you. **M**

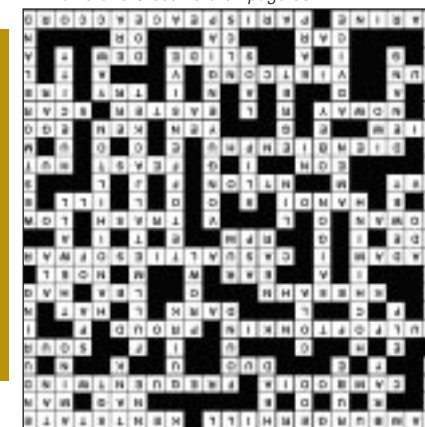


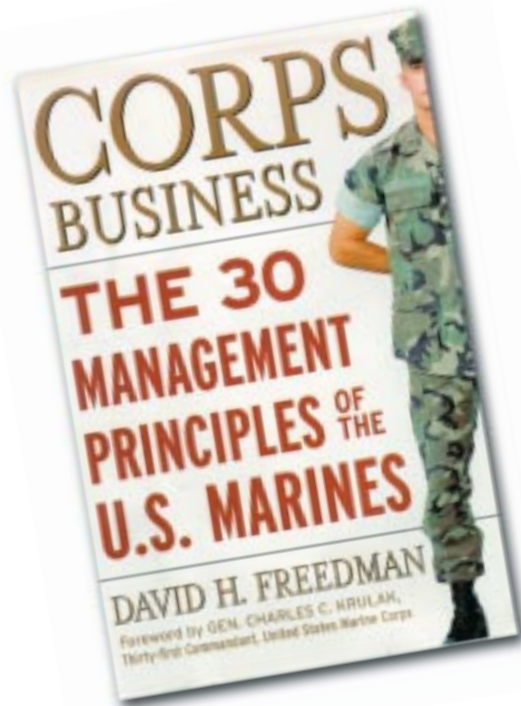
LOUD & CLEAR

"I love the Corps for those intangible possessions that cannot be issued: pride, honor, integrity, and being able to carry on the traditions for generations of warriors past."

— Cpl. Jeff Sornij, USMC;
Navy Times,
November 1994

Answers to Crossword on page 39





By Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,
Washington

The Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment have proven to be pillars of success for more than two centuries. From these ethos stem the leadership that exists in every Marine from private to general. David H. Freedman describes in his book, "CORPS BUSINESS — The 30 Management Principles of the U.S. Marines," how the Marine Corps builds leaders, and how those leaders apply what they learn in the Corps to civilian organizations. Freedman emphasizes the

Marine Corps Association Top Sellers

March 2003

Keeping Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love and the United States Marine Corps
By Frank Schaeffer and Cpl. John Schaeffer

Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done
By Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan

The Pepperdogs
By Bing West

Gods and Generals
By Jeff Shaara and Michael Shaara

Marine Sniper — 93 Confirmed Kills
By Charles Henderson

CORPS BUSINESS

The 30 Management Principles of the U.S. Marines

Author: David H. Freedman
Harper Business — a division of
Harper Collins Publishers

benefits to corporations that integrate these management principles into their daily business. He notes that the principles "are not explicitly taught by the Marines in their schools or quoted by them in training or publications ... these principles are not necessarily what the Marines say they do but what they actually do."

Freedman traveled with Marines across the globe, observing many exercises and operations, and interviewing more than 100 Marines of all ranks.

In his 219-page book he compares and contrasts the composition of the Marine Corps to major corporations throughout the United States. Centered on a Marine Expeditionary Unit, the book describes in detail what it's like to sit aboard a CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter, preparing to take off from the flight deck of an amphibious ship.

In the first chapter — PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING — Freedman goes in-depth about the Rapid Response Planning Process, a process that enables Marines to quickly determine a course of action for any given situation, and deploy the necessary force for that situation.

In his corporate comparison, Freedman discusses the negative impact on Coca-Cola in 1999 when word got out

that a handful of consumers in Belgium became violently ill from drinking allegedly contaminated Coke. A fast-strike decision-making process — like the Rapid Response Planning Process — would have eliminated the company's crash in sales, he says.

Throughout ten chapters, Freedman consistently discusses businesses, like Chrysler and FedEx, which use Marine Corps principles to stay competitive. The edge Chrysler and Federal Express have is the former Marines managing them.

Freedman spreads the 30 Corps management principles throughout book, starting with principle 1: Aim for the 70 percent solution, which states that Marines act as soon as they have a plan with a good chance of working.

He explains that one way Marines get to that good plan is by principle #5: Organize according to the rule of three. When a MEU receives a mission order, a crisis action team is assembled, and they compose three acceptable plans of action. Essentially, what the 'Rule of Three' refers to is that a person should limit his or her attention to three tasks or goals.

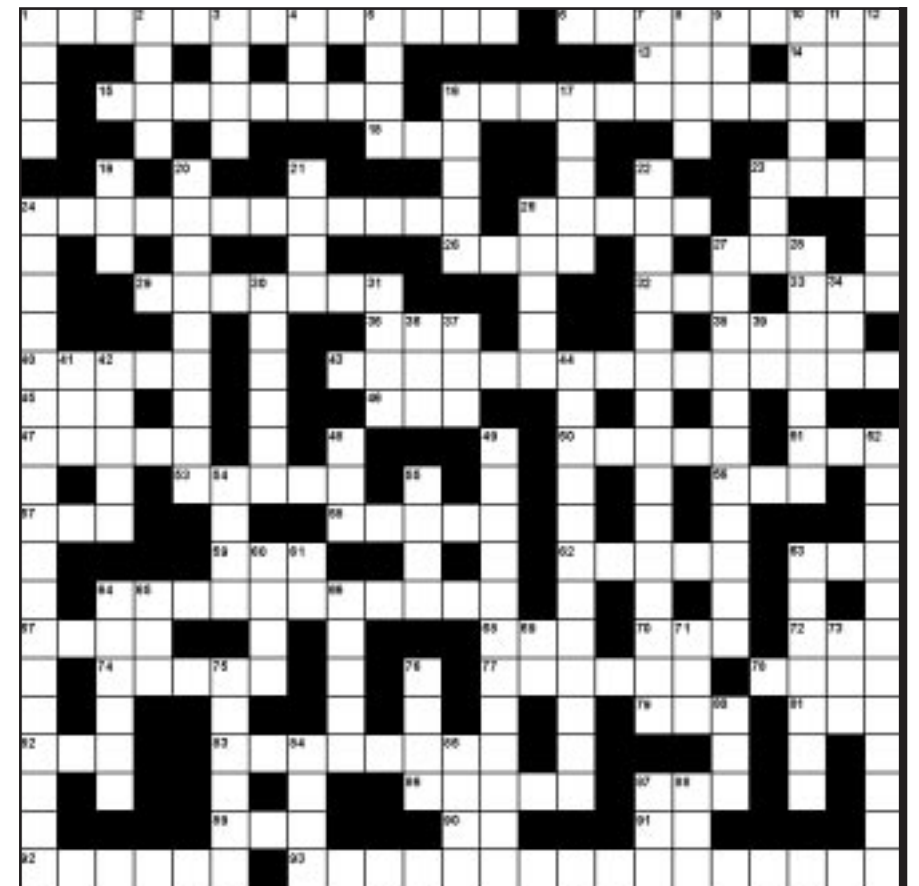
As Freedman states it, the Marines didn't just pick the number three out of a hat. They experimented with four,

which proved too slow, and with two, which proved too inefficient.

In Freedman's look at the leadership of the Marine Corps, he shows his readers that the Marine Corps is just as much a corporation as Microsoft or FedEx.

He also makes his book easy to read by offering terminology that most Marines, if not all, can recognize. "CORPS BUSINESS" gives phenomenal insight to the business of the Marine Corps — which is in the business of 'making Marines.'

Gen. Charles C. Krulak explained it in a nutshell in his foreword, "Marines have long recognized the unequivocal link between battlefield success and leadership. The Corps has therefore placed a premium on those qualities of character integral to effective and positive leadership and has strived to nurture them in all Marines. There is no higher compliment than to be called a leader of Marines." **M**



The Vietnam War

ACROSS

1. Hill 937
6. University where 1970 war protest ended in tragedy
13. Old horse
14. Guy
15. Vietnam neighbor
16. Marine op to evacuate U.S. embassy in Saigon
18. Pair
23. Not sweet
24. 1964 incident here with USS Maddox
25. The few, the _____
26. Not light
27. Marine cover
29. Numerous Vietnam battles fought here
32. Grassy plain
33. Witch
35. Hearing device
38. Christmas song
40. Grand lady
43. Senn Penn & Michael J. Fox square off in this Vietnam film
45. Epic poem
46. Rotations Per Minute
47. Ash tree
50. Garbage
51. Not high
53. Capital of Vietnam
56. Not well
57. Poison _____
58. Hose
59. One billion years
62. Not famine
63. Atten-_____
64. Viet Minh beat the French here in 1954
67. See
68. Yearn
70. Know
72. Self esteem
74. Emphatic no
77. Egg-hiding holiday
78. Wound souvenir
79. Attempt
81. Anger
82. Tavern where Marine Corps was born
83. National Liberation Front soldier
86. Playground ride
87. Morning dampness
89. POV
90. Home to MCB Camp Pendleton
91. Either _____
92. Soldier of the sea
93. 1973 document that ended U.S. combat role in Vietnam

DOWN

1. UH-1N
2. Donkey's cry
3. Bumpkin
4. Explosive ordinance disposal
5. Marine bathroom
7. North North East
8. Armored vehicle
9. E-5
10. Type of acid
11. Effect's of sun
12. Operation _____ Freedom
16. Not lost
17. Peculiar trait
19. Santa's helper
20. Vietnamese revolutionary "Bringer of Light"
21. Soda
22. Flick featuring DI Gunnery Sgt. Hartman
23. Healthy resort
24. Robin William's film greeting
25. Stealthy movement
27. Infamous Vietnam POW camp
28. Vietnam Veteran Monument
30. Fell in 1975
31. Not far
34. Chicken _____ king
36. Ammo Supply Point
37. Pirate drink
39. Two out _____ three ain't bad
41. Much _____ about nothing
42. First American casualty in Vietnam
44. Campaign launched during Vietnamese New Year
48. Vietnam Veteran Monument designer
49. Vietnamese general
52. Commanded U.S. military ops in Vietnam from 1964-68
54. Prayer ender
55. A boat's berth
60. To receive, _____ and pass on ...
61. Short for Nickel
63. Liberated by U.S. Marines in 1968
64. 9th MEB landed here in March 1965
65. _____ Jima
66. Heron
69. Each
71. To _____ is human
73. Needlefish
75. Everyone has this to offer
76. Vietnam neighbor
80. Ship's course deviation
84. Wyatt _____
85. National League Championship Series
87. Female deer
88. Age